Mohave County Miner.

VOL. XXX. KINGMAN, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1912. NO. 18

Reclamation Costs Uncle Sam Millions.

A Washington, D. C., dispatch says: —Approximately sixty-seven million dollars have been spent by the government in irrigation work, and this vast sum, is less than half of the amount that will have been expended when Uncle Sam's engineers have completed the present program of reclamation. In nearly every western state the flood waters of the streams are being impounded and already thousands of families are benefiting by this stored water The activities of the federal government in reclamation work have resulted in awaking a widespread interest in irrigation, which is no longer a local question confined to our rainless country. Experience has shown that a more general application of its principles throughout the whole country would result in material benefit, especially in intensive agriculture such as truck farming and small fruit growing.

The farmer in the east and middle west is subject in a large measure to the whim of an uncertain rainfall. What would it have been worth to him during twenty years' farming experience if he could have turned on the rain whenever his crops needed moisture? His half crops would have been full ones, his occasional total failures would have been successes, and the money actually saved would amount to a sum which might well make him thoughtful. The western man realizes these things. A man who has practised farming by irrigation, or who has carefully studied its advantages rarely revert to either the theory or practice of rainfall farming. The farmer in humid regions realizes clearly the handicaps under which he works, but hesitates to change because he has not had the object lessons or experience of the westerner, or has not given consideration to the matter of applying irrigation to his own fields.

Many eastern farmers have the idea that the irrigation farmer is in a chronic state of water shortage, or has to fight execss of alkalai in the soil, or is so far from market that profits are eaten up by transportation charges. These things are sometimes true, but it is a grave mistake to believe that they are unavoidable defects or that they apply to all irrigated districts. In building its irrigation projects the governments selects only fertile soil; then it gauges the size of the area to fit the available water supply. The reservoirs and canals are built as substantially as engineering skill can devise and when the farms have been laid out and water is running in the canals, then and not until then, settlers are invited to use their homestead rights on the land. The money actually spent in building the irrigation works is proated against each acre of land and is repaid by the settlers in ten equal, annual payments, without interest. Call it paternalism if you like—it is making homes by the thousand every year.

The settlement agent of the reclamation service whose office is in the Federal building in Chicago, states that success can not be attained without work—either in the west or anywhere else, and the man who expects to farm an irrigated homestead without hard work will be grievously disappointed. Neither will he get rich over night. The government holds out no promises of fabulous profits per acre or of land values increasing like a snowball rolling down hill. The simple facts are these: Tracts of first class farming land varying from 40 to 160 acres are now open to entry; in their raw condition they produce nothing and are worth very little. When properly irrigated they produce large crops of alfalfa, grain, vegetables, and fruit; in fact, all the crops common to the region in which they are located, but in greater abundance and more surely than in states where farmers must depend on the rainfall. Cultivated land with an assured water supply is worth from 100$ an acre upward and in some of the older and more highly developed fruit districts prices of 2000$ or 3000$ per acre have been frequently recorded. These high figures are due to a perfect state of cultivation, a thorough knowledge of packing the fruit for market, and well organized selling associations.

The settlers now locating on government irrigation projects are frequently suprised at the modern condition which surround them, and the Huntly project in Montana is an example of what can be accomplished in three or four years by progressive people. It includes an area approximately twenty miles long and five miles wide divided into farms averaging 40 acres of irrigable land, and about 500 families now live there. Two railroads passing through the project afford transportatiod facilities and four small towns with stores and business houses are exhibiting a steady growth. A telephone system which reaches about half of the farmers, will soon be extended to cover the entire project, and thirteen modern schools, employing trained instructors, provide tor the education of the children. The fertile soil is well adapted to alfalfa, wheat, oats, sugar beets, vegetables, small fruits and berries, and many farmers are adding to their incomes by the steady demand for dairy products, hogs and poultry. In order to be successful the average man needs from one to two thousand dollars to cover the cost of necessary equipment, a house, fences, and preparing the land for crops. He must also provide for himself and family until his farm begins to pay expenses and this will require at least one crop season. Forty acres of this land intensively farmed will yield a net annual profit of from 500$ to 2000$, and this is not theory but a simple statement of results already accompolished. While previous farming experience is desirable, it is by no means essential, and some of the most successful homesteaders on the various government irrigation projects had never handled a plow before they made their filings.

On the Huntley project there are now 85 farms ready for settlers and canals have been completed to supply lands in several other projects located in Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and Nevada.

Better Call a Physician.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent annually on prospects and mining properties in general, that either fail entirely, or come far short of giving value received to the owners. Partly from the fact of the work being performed in the wrong place, and perhaps, equally, for the reason that the owner is expending his good money year after year upon ground that is absolutely worthless.

The writer has in mind, as these lines are penned, prospectors who, for the past twenty years and more, have held tenaciously to large groups of claims that were entirely void of even a mineral stain, having become possessed of the erroneous idea, in some way, that the ledge of a rich dividend payer, located miles away, crossed their lives working six months of the year for a grub stake, and the other six months in a vain effort to cut an ore body that exists only in their imaginations.

Other men are holding valuable ground, but are expending their money and labor in such a way that the results so far as renumeration and success are concerned, are on a par with the man holding the worthless ground. His inability to grasp the true situation making it mostly guess work on his part, as to whether he taps the ore or not. And, in many instnaces, the grave overtakes him while he is driving away from the riches which, though hidden from view, might have been easily traced by the man who makes such things a life study.

The claim is made, and undoubtedly comes very near the truth, that when all expense is figured from working claims that never produced a cent, and the intermediates up to the big dividend payers, that every ounce of gold mined costs upward of 40$ to the ounce. And every ounce of silver has been mined at a cost of not less than 4$ per ounce.

But, when the same care is taken in mining that is exercised in other legitimate lines of business, gold, silver and other metals and minerals that are in constant demand can be mined at a sure profit.

Many contractors have been built, and even smelters erected, by unscrupulous wild cat promoters, for the sole purpose of selling stock; and afterwards millions have been spent in a hopeless effort to find a little ore to run them on. Failing in this these costly structures have, years afterwards, been torn down and peddled out for ten or fifteen cents on the dollar.

It makes bu little difference to the investing clientage whether his is done by the wild catter, for the purpose of mining the public, or by the man whose intentions are good, but fails in ability through lack of equipment along these lines. But, all the same, their money is gone, the average cost of production has been raised, their investment is a failure, and legitimate mining has received a black eye.

There are gold mines today producing the yellow metal at a cost of less than 2$ an ounce, and silver properties exist that could be worked at a profit at 15 cents per ounce. But neither the wild-catter nor the man of inexperience can be found piloting these properties up into the millions of dividends.

It is a duty man owes to himself, as well as to those dependent on him, to make his investments sure. There are few investments, if any, that pay so large a percentage of interest as the money invested in mining, when the right property has been selected. The biggest money is made by investing in the prospect, that later develops into the big mine.

Stock in many new properties have been bought at from 5 cents to 20 cents a share, and which, in a short time, have gone up to that many dollars, and in some cases many times that.

But remember, the mining engineer is to the mining world what the doctor is to mankind, and his services are just as necessary to healthy mining as the services of the physician is to healthy living. Many times the calling in of the doctor—at a comparatively small fee—has enabled the man to go ahead with his business, when neglect would mean a long seige of sickness, if not death.

The advice of the mining engineer has made producing mines of many a prospect, and kept many a dividend-payer paying dividends. It is safest and cheapest, in the long run, to call in the physician.—by J. L. Safford, in The Salt Lake Mining Review.

Smelter Charges in Utah.

The bulk of the silver-lead ores shipped from the Tintic district, Utah, to the smelters in Salt Lake valley pay a treatment charge of about 1.50$ to 2.50$ per ton, based on a certain content of lead usually 10 per cent. If the lead content is below 10 per cent there is an additional charge of 8c. per unit, and if above 10 per cent there is a credit of 5c. per unit. A charge of 12c. per unit is made on all silica, of which Tintic ores carry 60 to 80 per cent. The shipper is debited with 25c. per unit for sulphur, 30c. per unit on all zinc over 8 per cent, and 50c. for speiss, consisting mostly of arsenic and antimony. Iron is paid for at 10c. per unit, and in settling for the copper in lead ores the smelters first deduct 1.3 per cent from the assay value, and about 5c. per pound from the market price on cathode copper; that is, copper in lead ore running less than 1 3 per cent is not paid for. The producer is paid for 90 per cent of the lead content, less 1 1-4 to 1 1-2c. per pound deducted from the market price for transportation and refining of bullion. He is paid for 95 per cent of the silver at New York prices. Based on the foregoing figures it is apparent that producers of Tintic ores pay a treatment charge of 8$ to 10$ per ton.

Most of the Park City operators pay the smelters a flat rate of 10$ to 12$ per ton, the transportation charge being 2$ per ton on crude ore and concrete. Settlements for lead, silver, and gold in the ore are the same as those applicable to Tintic ores. Copper in Park City silver-lead ores is paid for at 5c. per pound less than the New York price, after deducting the difference between the wet and dry assay. Zinc is an important factor in the lead-silver ores of Park City, and the entire product shipped to Colorado and Kansas plants. Apparently the zinc situation has undergone some changes within the past seven months, and some of the zinc producers complain of exacting conditions under which zincblende concentrate is now marketed. Such a product. sampling 40 per cent zinc, 4 to 5 per cent lead, and 8 to 10 oz. silver, with spelter at 5c. per pound in St. Louis, is sold f. o. b. Park City at 10$ to 12$ per ton. A penalty on lime is charged, and there is also a penalty if 50 per cent of the concrete runs finer than a certain mesh. There are no credits for iron, nor gold, of which there is a small amount. The only mine in Park City district the ores of which are not treated on the flat-rate basis is the Daly-Judge. Its lead-silver ore, both crude and concentrated, is being shipped to the International plant, the treatment charges being figured on the silica and iron basis.

A considerable tonnage of silver-lead-zinc ore is received at the Midvale mill of the United States S. R. & M. Co. In settlement for this the producer is paid 20$ per ounce for 90 per cent of the gold; he is paid market price for 80 per cent of the silver, 80 per cent of the lead, less 1 1-2c. per pound; 60 per cent of the iron at 6c. per unit, and 30 per cent of the zinc content at 2c. per pound. He pays a treatment charge of 3$ per ton, a roasting charge of 1.50$ per ton, and is charged for 10 per cent of the silica at 12c. per unit. —Mining and Scientific Press.

Power Development in Mexico.

In 10 months of 1911 the Mexican Light & Power Company, owning the big Necaxa power plant and supplying El Oro and Pachuca, had gross earnings of £5,793,8s2, and net earnings of £3,892,412. Its subsidiary, the Pachuca Light & Power Company, in the same period had gross earnings of £ 62,009, and net earnings of £597,452. The power-furnishing capacity of the Guanajuato Power & Electric Company has been doubled by the completion of a third hydro-electric plant, on the Angulo river in Michoacan. The company has just closed a contract for the building of a 50-mile transmission line from Guanajuato to the Pozos district of that State to supply the important Angustias Mining Company. The Chapala Hydro-Electric & Irrigation Company completed, at a cost of over £3,000,000, a 12,000-horse-power plant at Puente Grande, on the Santiago river, 15 miles from Guadalajara. This plant will now supply the transmission line extending to the Etzatlan and Hostotipaquillo mining districts of Jalisco, and any other lines that may be built. Notwithstanding a scarcity of labor during a part of the year as a result of the revolution, the Mexican Northern Power Company has made good progress in its important power project on the Conchos river in the State of Chihuahua. For several months, more than 1000 men have been at work. The company is already ascertaining power needs in the Parral, Santa Barbara, Naica, Santa Eulalia and other mining districts. The first half of the year saw the completion of a transmission line from the Copper Queen smelter at Douglas, Arizona, to the Lucky Tiger mine in Sonora, a distance of 72 miles. A concession for a hydro-electric plant to supply power in the Rimapan mining district of Hidalgo has been granted Mr. Andrew Mackenzie, representing Canadian capital.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Probably the best showing of gold-bearing rock to be found in the districts contiguous to Parker is that contained on the ground of the Golden State Mining company. Col. Kit Carson, secretary and manager of the company, came in from the property Wednesday filled with enthusiasm over the prospect of developing a world beater in the Copper Basin district at an early date. He reports that out of 128 pannings made recently at different points on the company's sixteen claims 102 of the pannings showed gold running from 10$ to several thousand dollars per ton. The width of the main ledge is said to be twenty-nine feet, while a parallel vein approximates twelve feet in width. The ore is all of a free milling character, and runs high. Numerous cross veins extend from the main lead, and while the rich streaks opened in these are narrow they average from 100$ to 25 $ gold to the ton. Picked samples have been taken from these rich streaks running as high as 40,000$ to the ton Col. Carson has a force of six men employed on the property at the present time doing the annual assessment work, but states that it is the intention of the company to continue development work indefinitely.—Parker Post.